



## Christ Church Congregational Meeting

**26 November 2018 – 8.00pm - Minutes**

**Present: 35 members.**

**Apologies received from: David and Isabel Josey, Herb and Marg Payne, Val Whitbread, Keith Lang, Tim Winkle, David Winkle.**

Number	Item	Action
1	<b>Welcome / Prayer/ Worship</b> Jonathan Clark (JGC) opened the meeting leading in prayer and sung worship and introduced the agenda.	
2	Jonathan Clark gave a review of his time at Christ Church 100 days in, using the same themes as for his video introduction to Christ Church prior to his arrival:  <b>Looking Up:</b> Jonathan and Martha have loved worshipping God with us in in spirit and truth – and that no encouragement was needed for everyone to do this. They're also encouraged by the Christian maturity of preaching of God's Word from our variety of preachers.  <b>Roots down:</b> encouraged that 70-80 people are linked to home groups.  <b>Look in:</b> we have people living in tough and difficult circumstances and people are supporting one another. The fellowship of varied church ministries like Coffee and Co., Sparklers and Messy Church, which are leading people into Sunday church services. Jonathan highlighted that the path of faith we are seeing often shows people identifying as belonging to the church prior to declaration of belief in Christ.  <b>Reach out:</b> we need to listen, serve and share. Jonathan shared the aim to increase our outreach through perhaps Alpha and similar other faith sharing initiatives. People were encouraged to think about whether they have family/ friends/ neighbours who may be interested. Jonathan believes that the presence of the Church needs to be in Chineham Centre and was talking about ways of building connections, maybe providing chaplaincy support to the community there, offering prayer. Best practice to be sought from those doing this with the Chaplaincy team in Basingstoke Town Centre – Jonathan and Rob Pullen meeting to move this forward).  <b>Leaning on God in prayer</b> – Jonathan encouraged more to come to pray together in our regular corporate prayer meetings – he noted that people are praying together regularly in home groups.  Jonathan thanked Owen Brooker and Denise Bain (Wardens) for support in these early days of his ministry at Christ Church.  <b>Following this, discussion mentioned:</b> Prayer triplets and prayer partners. Chaplaincy – training available through the Town Centre chaplaincy and experience/ support of their experience in Festival Place. (Jean Wilde and some others in CC have this training already).  Jonathan also mentioned spending this early period of his ministry at Christ Church putting foundational issues of buildings, finances and administration in place, so that discipleship and outreach can follow more easily.	JGC

3	<p><b>People numbers:</b>  Stats: 127 members/ regular attendees?  9am: 40 regulars (3-4 weeks).  (This doesn't include regulars at Messy Church/ Sparklers which may cover another 40 adults).  10:30am 130 adults + 29 children / youth. (2-3 weeks) .  99 of the congregation volunteer regularly in 29 CC- led ministries.  8 volunteer regularly in other local Christian ministries (Street Pastors)  76 are in home groups.</p> <p><b>People: Membership including new members.</b>  Jonathan Clark announced that two new applications for membership had been agreed: Martha Clark and Judith Read – they will be welcomed at the next Communion Service. Jonathan Clark confirmed in answer to a question that ministers are automatically members of their church.  Jonathan announced that in February all members will need to reaffirm their membership by completing the new membership form – this ties in with the CofE requirement to renew their Electoral Roll (CofE membership list) by recreating this list. It was felt that this activity was an opportunity to discuss membership with those currently on the fringes of Christ Church. It can also be publicized at a newcomers lunch.</p>	
4	<p><b>Welcome to our church.</b>  Owen used Hook Runners as an example – it has grown massively in last 18 months – it is a welcoming environment and they encourage people who then want to belong to the club. The church needs to provide a welcome to those who show an interest. Regarding welcome on Sunday – Jonathan sent his parents to visit us prior to him coming to Christ Church - only one person spoke to them. Can we do better as welcoming people? Would it be better to rota the welcoming teams as on duty for a month at a time to help them recognise unfamiliar faces? It was commented that people are transitioning into our church – do we offer a welcome on arrival but not always so good to follow up at the end of the service?</p>	JGC to address with Welcomers & Congregations
5	<p><b>Prayer Life</b>  Jonathan asked everyone to complete a prayer survey into how we like to pray, frequency of prayer and things that help or hinder us praying. This will feed into a prayer programme next term.</p>	
6	<p><b>Constitution update</b>  Owen Brooker reported that it has been circulated around the denominations and is just waiting for one person to sign it. A questions was asked about where it would be held – it was requested it should be held in the safe. Jonathan Clark confirmed an electronic copy would be held by the Church.</p>	
7	<p><b>Support to CCC life and ministry</b>  <b>Appointment of independent accounts verifier:</b>  Anne Daw (Church Treasurer) recommended to the meeting that Christine Holland be appointed as independent verifier of the Christ Church accounts. Christine is the local Methodist District Treasurer and has confirmed she is available to do this in February. The meeting <u>agreed</u> to appoint her.</p> <p><b>Bank Change:</b>  Anne Daw also reported that Christ Church are moving from NatWest Bank to the Charities Aid Foundation Bank because it allows for dual authorised online payments are available which NatWest does not – Church Council believed this was needed for a clear audit trail.</p> <p><b>Budget and financial planning</b>  Anne Daw presented the proposed budget for 2019. She showed us</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic trends including recent reduction in income but expenditure currently higher.</li> <li>Looking forward – projecting spending &gt; income for all the three years ahead. Expecting planned giving to increase as Jonathan Clark has come in. Reduction amounts to Winchester Diocese over the next year – to be reviewed as the year progresses. 2018 looking close to balancing. 2019 setting budget deficit of £10K. Talked about balancing commitments with doing the right thing.</li> </ol>	

	<p>She offered copies of budget / accounts for people to review.</p> <p>It was also mentioned regarding Planned Giving that the Parish Giving Scheme (which Christ Church recommend donors to use) will soon to be available to operate online.</p> <p><b>Building Facilities:</b>  Maintenance £21K – could be reduced in the short term but needs to be balanced against the desire to keep lettings income from falling.  Facilities update – amongst other things we need to:  Replace dishwasher/ steriliser (£5000).  Light control unit will need replacement (Can't turn lights on or off!). Can't take LEDs.  Jonathan will talk to Gillian Baker about the windows in the worship area, after it was reported that not all will open.  Need to improve quality of projection – including projectors on both sides – not currently in the budget.</p>	JGC
8	<p><b>Churchsuite</b>  This has been purchased for Christ Church to help us meet GDPR requirements for our record keeping and is now being used for the membership database, communication with church members and is planned for use in lots of other areas.  Jonathan Clark gave a brief demonstration of what we will be able to do with it once it is fully up and running.</p>	
9	<p><b>Prayer in groups</b>  People prayed in groups for the church's ministry and one another.</p>	
10	<p><b>Blessing and grace</b>  Jonathan Clark thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and then led us in the blessing and the grace together.</p>	